

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BURGESS HILL. 925REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the Burgess Hill Urban District Council.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1943.

The Minister of Health has requested that for this year interim reports only should be submitted and should be confined to essential matters which have affected the public health during the year. This procedure has, therefore, been adopted.

The Crude Death Rate is 13.13 as compared with 14.19 for the previous year and with 12.1 for England and Wales. The Infantile Mortality Rate is 33.56 which is lower than that for the Country as a whole.

No deaths occurred from Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough or Measles.

For security reasons the population figures given in this report are not for publication.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

As in previous years every effort was made to persuade parents to accept immunization for their children and during the year 210 were immunized and 791 Schick tested.

A complete card index system ensures that every child from one to fifteen years of age is recorded, particulars being obtained from the Registrar of births and checked by a list of all under fives from the Food Office. In addition a list is obtained once per month from the Food Office of all children under five who enter the district and also of those who leave. This information ensures that the records are kept up-to-date and accurate.

Every parent on the child's first birthday receives an explanatory leaflet with a stamped acceptance card enclosed for return. Those who do not reply or refuse are visited by a voluntary helper. The same procedure is adopted for new entrants to the district. Clinics are held on the first Friday of every month and in cases where it is impossible for the mother to leave home Dr. Duke, Assistant Medical Officer, visits and gives the injections there, parents being notified

accordingly. Parents are also given the alternative of taking their children to their own doctors and the Council pays the doctors at the British Medical Association rate of 3/- per injection.

The procedure is similar for school children, each school having its own container. A complete list of children is obtained from the headteacher and every term the list is revised by obtaining particulars of entrants and leavers. Parents whose children have not been immunized are sent an explanatory leaflet and are visited if they do not accept. Clinics are held every term at the schools.

When children come from another area and the parent states her child has been immunized there, a request is made to the Medical Officer of Health for that area for particulars of immunization.

The prophylactic used is A.P.T the dosage being .3 c.cm followed by .5 c.cm four weeks later. In view of recent investigations on dosage, the second dose has now been reduced to .3 c.cm.

For reasons given in previous years I regard the Schick test as being essential in a proper immunization scheme.

Every parent is given the opportunity of having her child tested three to six months after the second injection. In addition every inoculated child is retested on entering school unless the inoculation and test were done during the previous twelve months. Children who enter from another area are also tested. In addition, during the year, children who had been immunized two years or more previously were retested and the findings of this survey were published in the British Medical Journal on 4th December, 1943. In brief it was found that there was a loss of immunity with the passing of time, ranging from 4% after 2 years to 18% after 6 years.

At the end of the year in the one to five years of age group there were 482 children and 98 per cent had been immunized and in the five to fifteen years group out of 1384 children the percentage was 96. Private schools are included in the latter figure.

<u>Percentage immunized in elementary schools.</u>	
<u>Name of School.</u>	<u>Figure.</u>
London Road Senior School.	98
Junction Road School	97
London Road Junior and Infants School	94

My thanks are due to Miss Dean, a voluntary helper, for interviewing parents who did not accept, keeping of records and making arrangements for the attendance of children at the Clinics; to the headteachers for their help and co-operation and particularly to Dr. Duke who has devoted so much time and energy in co-ordinating the whole scheme.

The following are particulars of cases of diphtheria during the year:-

On the 3rd October, 1943 a notification of nasal diphtheria was received in respect of a child who had not been immunized.

On 22nd November an adult was notified.

On 2nd December two further cases were notified in one household from another part of the town, one being an adult and the other a child who had been immunized in 1939 and was Schick negative in 1940 and again in 1943. The adult had the disease rather severely but the child had a mild attack.

On 9th December a further case occurred, a child who had been immunized in 1939 and was Schick negative in 1940 and again in 1943. This was a mild case.

On 17th December a further case occurred in a child of ten months who had not been immunized. This was also a mild case.

The last four cases were living in adjacent houses with close contact between them.

A large number of contacts were swabbed and seven were found to harbour diphtheria bacilli. Six of these had been immunized and the other a child of seven months had not been immunized.

In my view the extensive immunization which has been carried out in Burgess Hill played a great part in limiting this outbreak as without immunization the consequences might have been very serious.

SCABIES.

Early in 1943 the Council made application to the Ministry of Health for Scabies to be made a notifiable disease and this was granted.

Notification by general practitioners to this office has been found to be of great assistance in dealing with this disease.

All cases are treated at the Burgess Hill Clinic or at the Sick Bay, Burgess Hill, two applications of Benzyl Benzoate on consecutive days being the routine procedure. All contacts in the same household are seen by the Assistant Medical Officer or myself, those found to be infected receiving two treatments and the others one preventive treatment.

If a certain school appears to be particularly involved an examination of the childrens hands is carried out and many cases have been unearthed in this way. The diagnosis is made by the aid of a magnifying glass. In cases where there is a doubt as to whether the mite is alive or dead the use of a microscope decides the issue. One hundred and five cases occurred during the year.

HOUSING.

Since the beginning of the war very little repair work to houses has been carried out owing to the shortage of labour and restrictions on the provision of material. It will, therefore, be obvious that housing conditions have deteriorated during the past five years which will entail a considerable amount of work when conditions permit.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Constant supervision of the food trade has been maintained throughout the year involving 441 visits to butchers shops, food shops, bakehouses and dairy premises.

I am indebted to Mr. Sayers, the Sanitary Inspector, for his help and co-operation in the work of the department and to the other members of the Staff and in particular to Miss Everson, my Chief Clerk.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the consideration, support and assistance I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. B. Stott

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Summary of Statistics for the Year 1943.

Area of District in acres	...	...	...	...	...	2,024
Population estimated to middle of year	...	...	...	...	...	7,386
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£59,434
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£235
Density of Population (persons per acre)	..	...	...	...	...	3.65
Number of Houses	..	...	...	...	...	2,250
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	20.17
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	13.13
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	33.56

CAUSES OF DEATH IN BURGESS HILL URBAN DISTRICT.

<u>Cause of Death:</u>						<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>
1.	Typhoid and Para-typhoid fevers	...	...	...	...	-	-
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	-	-
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	-	-
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	-	-
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	...	...	...	1	2
7.	Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	-	-
8.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	...	-	-
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	-	2
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	-	-
11.	Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis.	...	...	...	...	-	-
12.	Acute inf. encephalitis	...	...	...	...	-	-
13.	Cancer of b.cav and oesoph. (male) uterus (female)	...	...	...	...	-	-
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	-	1
15.	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	-	4
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	3	6
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	-	-
18.	Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	...	...	...	...	6	14
19.	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	10	18
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	...	1	1
21.	Bronchitis	..	...	...	...	2	1
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2	1
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	-	-
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	..	...	...	...	-	-
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	-	-
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	-	-
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	-	2
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	3
29.	Puerperal and post-abor. sepsis	...	...	...	...	-	-
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	-	-
31.	Premature birth	...	...	...	...	2	-
32.	Con.mal. birth inj. infant. dis.	...	...	...	...	1	-
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	1
34.	Road traffic accidents	..	...	...	...	-	-
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	1	-
36.	All other causes	..	...	...	...	5	5
Totals						<u>36</u>	<u>61</u>

BIRTH RATE, CIVILIAN DEATH RATE AND ANNUAL ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY during the Year 1943 (Provisional Figures)

	Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population									Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Total Deaths under 1 year
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Small-pox	Measles	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (Under 2 years)		
England and Wales	16.5	0.51	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.37	-	0.02	5.3	49	
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	18.6	0.63	14.2	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.36	-	0.02	7.9	58	
48 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	19.4	0.61	12.7	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.37	-	0.02	4.4	46	
London	15.8	0.45	15.0	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.27	-	0.02	10.4	58	
Burgess Hill Urban District	20.17	0.27	13.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	-	0.00	0.00	33.56	

The Maternal Mortality Rates for England and Wales are as follows: per 1,000 Total Births

The Maternal Mortality Rates for the Burgess Hill Urban District are as follows:

Puerperal Sepsis.

Others

Total.

0.39

1.45

1.84

Nil

Nil

Nil

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Inspections:

Housing	...	...	...	948
Public Health Acts.	...	...	...	371
Food Premises	...	...	...	441
Trade Premises	...	...	...	31
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	873
Total	...	...	...	<u>2664</u>

Complaints:

During the year 102 complaints were received, dealing with the following matters:-

Housing Defects	...	...	...	44
Rats	...	...	...	13
Drainage	...	...	...	25
Accumulations	...	...	...	7
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	10
Overcrowding	...	...	...	3

Notices:

Number of notices outstanding at end of 1942	...	...	27
Number of notices served during 1943			
(a) Preliminary	...	...	158
(b) Statutory	...	...	5
Number of notices complied with during 1943	...	...	143
Number of notices outstanding at end of 1943	...	...	42

Verminous Houses.

During the year nine houses were found to be infested with bed bugs. In each case disinfection has been carried out by spraying with insecticide; it has been found that, except in cases of slight infestation, this method is rarely completely successful. Efforts are therefore made to persuade owners of property to have disinfection carried out by contractors employing Hydrogen Cyanide.

Rodent Control.

The Infestation Order made by the Ministry of Food came into force during the year. There appears to have been a definite increase in the number of rats and mice in the district, but with the employment of the scientific methods advocated by the Ministry of Food it is hoped to effect a considerable reduction in the number of infestations.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

<u>Milk Production:</u>	Number of Cowkeepers on the Register	...	...	16
	Approximate number of milch cows	...	...	290
	Number of inspections	...	...	85

Works carried out during the year:

Cowshed walls repaired	...	...	...	1
Concrete walks provided	...	...	...	1
New sterilising plant provided	...	...	...	1
Dairies reconstructed	...	...	...	1

<u>Retail Dairies:</u>	Number of Retailers on Register	...	...	12
	Number of Retail Dairies	...	...	10
	Number of Inspections	...	...	165

Sampling.

a) Bacteriological examination:

Total number of samples taken 52
 Number found to be satisfactory 40
 Number found to be unsatisfactory 12

b) Biological examination:

Total number of samples taken 27
 All samples failed to show evidence of tubercular infection.

c) Phosphatase Test:

Two samples of Pasteurised milk were taken for the phosphatase test and each was found to have been efficiently treated.

Meat Inspection.

During the year it was found necessary to draw the wholesale distributors attention to the unsatisfactory way in which meat was being delivered to the district. Considerable improvement resulted and has so far been maintained.

Since the introduction of the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940, meat supplies for the district come from Brighton. One Slaughterhouse in Burgess Hill is still licenced and is used for slaughtering animals killed under special licence issued by the Ministry of Food.

Number of Butchers' Shops in district ... 10
 Number of Inspections 45
 Number of animals known to be killed - Pigs 18
 Number of Animals Inspected 18

Meat found to be diseased or unsound:

1 Pig's Head - Tuberculosis 23 lbs
 Hindquarter of Beef - decomposition 90 lbs

Unsound Food Surrendered:

Canned Meat 221 lbs
 Canned Fish 19 Tins
 Canned Milk 21 Tins
 Jam 36 lbs
 Butter 24 lbs
 Eggs 130
 Miscellaneous canned goods 184 Tins

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Disease	Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	8	3	-
Diphtheria	6	6	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-
Pneumonia	12	-	-
Erysipelas	1	1	-
Measles	148	11	-
Totals:	176	22	-

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Under 1 year	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 and over	Totals
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Diphtheria	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	1	-	-	6
Fuerberal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	2	-	2	-	3	12
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Measles	2	10	14	14	12	67	14	5	8	1	1	-	148
Totals	3	10	14	15	15	74	19	8	10	4	1	3	176

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY 1943.

Age Periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
35 - 45	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	4	-	1	3	-	-	-

THE MID-SUSSEX ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Appended below are details of cases admitted to the Hospital during the year.

Disease	Cuckfield Rural District	Cuckfield Urban District	Burgess Hill Urban District	Other Districts
Diphtheria	1	5	6	2
Diphtheria "Carrier"	-	3	2	2
Diphtheria Observation	6	-	1	1
Diphtheria Contact	-	1	-	-
Vincent's Angina	-	-	1	-
Scarlet Fever	46	28	3	1
Scarlet Fever Observation	2	1	-	-
Encephalitis	1	-	-	-
Encephalitis Observation	-	-	-	1
Meningitis, Cerebro-spinal	3	-	-	3
Meningitis, Observation	-	1	-	3
Meningitis "Carrier"	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	2	1	-	4
Jaundice	1	1	-	1
Sonne Dysentery	-	-	-	1
Sonne Dysentery Observation	1	-	-	-
Streptococcal Throat	3	1	-	1
Measles	13	6	12	14
German Measles	-	1	2	1
Whooping Cough	9	1	-	3
Mumps	-	-	-	2
Adenitis	-	1	-	-
Scabies	17	-	5	-
Totals:	105	51	32	41